

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 27, 1999 LR 69

refunds owed by all Kansas gas well owners to about...\$335 million, with \$34 million owed to Nebraska consumers. About 60 percent of that total, or an amount of about \$24 million, is interest on the unpaid principal. And that's the amount that's in dispute, is the interest. In attempt to circumvent the court order, members of the Kansas congressional (inaudible) had inserted an amendment into the Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act of 1999, and both in the House and Senate version, to eliminate the obligation of well owners to refund any interest or to pay any penalties regarding the Kansas tax. This resolution would express to our Congress our belief that it is wrong for the federal government to overturn a federal court order by legislative action, and thereby deny consumers the refunds wrongfully charged...imposed upon them. It would ask our representatives in the House and Senate to work to overturn the action and see that Nebraska's consumers receive the \$24 million they're entitled to receive. It affects...this resolution affects about 23 states. Nebraska's about 10 percent. I think there's some action by the governors of all these 23 states to also oppose. I called back to Congress and Congress didn't know much about it. I think Senator Quandahl did too. And I want to thank Senator Bruning for bringing this resolution to us first thing. With that, I'll be glad to answer any questions, or...related to the resolution.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, I just rise in strong support of this resolution, and just reiterate for you who may not have heard all of the opening remarks that we're talking about a possible \$24 million in refunds to Nebraska consumers. So it is a fairly significant resolution that we brought before you this morning. And I just want to make sure that people understand the importance of it, and urge your support. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Further debate on the resolution? Senator Hartnett, you're recognized to close. Waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of LR 69. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of